

Message Text

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ACTION HA-02

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 10565

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: INFORMATION FROM BOAT REFUGEE INTERVIEWS

1. DURING REFUGEE INTERVIEWS, WE OBTAINED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING GROUP OF 135 REFUGEES, MOSTLY ETHNIC CHINESE, WHO ARRIVED HERE LAST MONTH ON TAIWAN TRAWLERS. TRIP WAS ORGANIZED BY EHTNIC CHINESE IN DANANG, WHO ALSO MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PREVIOUS LARGE GROUP. DANANG RESIDENTS WHO ARRANGED TO JOIN GROUP ALSO INCLUDED RELATIVES, WHO WERE THEN NOTIFIED TO COME TO DANANG TO STAY WITH THEM UNTIL DEPARTURE DATE. GROUP PROCEEDED IN SMALL NUMBERS TO AN ISLAND OFF DANANG COAST WHICH IS USED BY MILITARY AND COASTAL PATROL. AFTER ALL 135 HAD ASSEMBLED ON ISLAND, THEY WERE INTERROGATED INDIVIDUALLY OR IN SMALL GROUPS BY VIETNAMESE MILITARY, WHO SEARCHED BELONGINGS, CONFISCATING PHOTOGRAPHS, ANY WRITTEN MATERIAL CONCERNING VIETNAM AND SOME VALUABLES. WHEN INTERROGATIONS WERE COMPLETED, REFUGEES WERE TOLD BY MILITARY THEY COULD DEPART VIETNAM ON TAIWAN TRAWLERS TO DESTINATION OF THEIR CHOICE. AS NOTED ABOVE, DESTINATION OF HONG KONG HAD BEEN ARRANGED PREVIOUSLY BY ORGANIZER. WE ESTIMATE THIS GROUP AS WHOLE PAID APPROXIMATELY 700 TAEELS OF
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GOLD TO ORGANIZER.

2. ONE REFUGEE REPORTED THAT HE HAD WORD FROM DANANG THAT A GROUP OF OVER 200 PERSONS, SIMILARLY ORGANIZED, DEPARTED ON AUGUST 4 FOR HONG KONG. IF CORRECT, THIS GROUP SHOULD ARRIVE HERE ON OR ABOUT AUGUST11.

3. IN MEANTIME, TWO GROUPS OF 20 EACH ARRIVED HONG KONG
YESTERDAY AND GROUP OF 22 ARRIVED TODAY. DURING WEEKEND,
GROUP OF 10, REPORTEDLY IN VIETNAMESE PATROL BOAT, AND
GROUP OF 38 YESTERDAY ARRIVED DIRECTLY IN MACAU. ONE
GROUP OF 20 WHO ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY ARE ETHNIC
CHINESE FISHERMEN WHO SAILED DIRECTLY FROM HAIPHONG.
THIS IS FIRST ARRIVAL IN HONG KONG OF REFUGEES DIRECTLY
FROM NORTH VIETNAM. THEY SAID THEY SAILED (BOAT HAS
NO MOTOR) FROM HAIPHONG ON JULY 20 AND STOPPED AT MON CAY
CHINA WHERE THEY PURCHASED FOOD AND WATER.
THEREAFTER THEY SAILED ALONG CHINESE COAST TO HONG
KONG, WHICH THEY SELECTED ON BASIS AUSTRALIAN SHORTWAVE
BROADCAST WHICH DESCRIBED FAVORABLE TREATMENT FOR VIETNAMESE
REFUGEES HERE.
SHOESMITH

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